

U. S. NOTE PRAISED BY THE PARIS PRESS

Viewed as Turning Diplomatic Tables on Germany Adroitly.

BLOW IN FACE TO KAISER

Interpreted as Meaning Foe Will Be Given No Respite In Retreat.

PARIS, Oct. 9.—The last paragraph of President Wilson's note has caused a deep impression on Parisians and caused much favorable comment, as it was taken by the population to concern directly the Hohenzollern family and the military party of Germany.

The general feeling is that the diplomatic tables have been turned on Germany, which tried to place the Allies in a difficult position, and that Germany now finds herself forced to face with a great problem which she attempted to force the Allies to solve.

Germany Outmaneuvered.

The Journal des Debats says: "This very adroit reply does the greatest honor to its author. It counters the German calculations. The Vienna and Berlin cabinets sought to place the United States before a dilemma—either to accept the armistice, which would give Germany the opportunity to reconstitute her harassed troops, or to evoke in Germany, by a refusal of the offer of peace, a patriotic movement which would rally round the new Government the whole nation, including the Socialists."

"President Wilson has not allowed himself to be caught in this dilemma. He demands enlightenment, and lays down a preliminary condition. President Wilson's last question strikes at the very heart of the German Government. It is a blow in the Kaiser's face."

The Temps says: "Like a man who only needs to consult his conscience, President Wilson has explained to the German Government that it is now to be seen what the German Government will have to say in reply."

"In language, perhaps, will permit Austria-Hungary, to which President Wilson had wisely abstained from replying too quickly, to consider itself no longer on a par with a faithless lawless Power."

Cuts Snarls Laid by Foes.

The Internationalist says: "The response of President Wilson, by its simplicity and good faith, cuts with a single stroke the snarls laid by Prince Max of Baden. President Wilson responds to the German: 'What do you mean? Do you accept my conditions? Do you speak in the name of the Government and the people?'"

"The answer to the Duke of Brunswick after his defeat at Ypres."

Liberty says: "We know already that the French Government has accepted the terms of the note. The country will share this sentiment unanimously. With a high conscience the President of the United States has comprehended that he is not an arbitrator but a belligerent. The President's note also established what guarantee must first be given before he and the Allies will even be able to examine the proposal."

Deputy-Marshal Serrat in L'Heure, which expresses the Socialist view, says: "The reply remains open for ultimate negotiations, after first accepting the fourteen points with complete guarantees."

"The significance of the note is in which President Wilson refuses to entertain the possibility of a cessation of hostilities and demands the immediate withdrawal of German troops is interpreted in military circles as meaning that the Allies will give the Germans no respite in their retreat."

Commenting on the best known military critics in France, expressed the view to the Associated Press correspondent in this connection that the Germans, if they were harassed and pressed during their retreat to the Meuse, would lose one-third of their effective and one-half of their material, and would find themselves comparatively as weak on the line of the Meuse as they now are. On the other hand, he declared, if they were allowed to retreat to the powerful fortified line of the Meuse with their armies intact and their line shortened by nearly 300 kilometers, forty of their divisions would be available for maneuvering.

PEACE AT ANY PRICE IS AUSTRIAN PLEA

Vienna Newspapers Say It Must Be Obtained.

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LONDON, Oct. 9.—Whatever may be the reservations behind the German newspaper expressions concerning the price they are willing to pay for peace, the Austrian press seems to have only one fear, and that is that the Central Powers will not give enough to attain the desired end. Says the Vienna Arbeiter Zeitung:

"We must have peace. It can be obtained and we must have it. No price is too high. With voices choked with tears we call upon our rulers to throw aside all considerations. Let us pay the price, whatever it is. It may save mankind from destruction."

The Zeit says: "Our peace offer contains no mental reservations and no diplomatic trickery. We must have peace. We must be prepared for the sacrifices involved, politically and economically. Our ambitions and plans must be renounced. We must make immediate internal changes and enter upon negotiations for peace without sentimentality and with calm, reasonable resignation."

GERMANY EAGERLY AWAITING U. S. REPLY

Spirit of Hopefulness Exists, Dutch Report.

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LONDON, Oct. 9.—Fending the receipt and publication of President Wilson's reply to Germany's proposal for an armistice, the Dutch press is filled with a spirit of intense hopefulness. These reports are undoubtedly influenced by Holland's desire to see the war end at the earliest possible moment. The Amsterdam correspondent of the Daily Express says:

"Whether Chancellor Maximilian has the power to do what he has promised it is evident that President Wilson's reply to his proposal is awaited with terrible eagerness. There is no doubt of the fact that the Central Powers placed all their hopes on this one trump card."

"The most serious situation would

WILSON KEEPS DOOR OPEN FOR VICTORY

Continued from First Page.

better understood now and with the growing realization that his action was guided by circumstances which will in due course become clearer to all, official and diplomatic Washington settled itself down to await developments.

In many instances there was a marked inclination to regard the present peace episode as merely another product of the Teuton diplomatic tricksters and that it is necessary to guard against becoming too much engrossed in its details.

The first impression that the German Chancellor's note and the President's official inquiry concerning it had in some operations and brought the war from the battlefield to the realm of debate were not gradually in all quarters except apparently at the Capitol.

Outstanding Features.

It is fully realized that the situation has not really changed, that the President's communication does not commit the United States to a definite position, nor does it mean that this Government is seriously letting peace thoughts at this juncture mingle with its maximum energies all devoted to the prosecution of the war. These outstanding features epitomized the virtually unanimous view in regard to the situation as it stands.

First, President Wilson has not changed one iota from his firm stand against any possible compromise or any half-way measure with Germany.

Second, the United States or the United States as imposed by the United States and the Entente is still and will steadfastly continue to be the victor in the war.

Third, no one in authority for a moment believes that Germany seriously thinks of virtually surrendering her powerful armies and asking her enemies to impose terms upon her.

Fourth, the presumption that the war may end this year is regarded as a purely unjustified and showing ignorance of true conditions but as positively dangerous to the future security of the nation.

New Element Injected.

A new element was injected in the situation today when it became apparent that some of the Senators were preparing to discuss the President's reply openly in the Senate tomorrow.

How far these speeches would go in criticism of the President, whether he is with the handling of this delicate diplomatic situation, was not to be measured in advance. It is known, however, that two or three of the Senate leaders deplore even the suggestion of a diplomatic interchange at this time.

They were insistent upon being heard on the subject. Their contentions will be met by a larger group who will deprecate any discussion as being calculated to embarrass the President.

It is apparent that the President's communication is rapidly finding new supporters. No one for a moment believes that the United States or the Allies are considering altering their determination to crush the "thing" which represents German autocracy, but as yet there are some who believe that the President has possibly risked entering the arena with the German propaganda, and they are naturally worried over the outcome.

While the President's simple inquiry does not constitute negotiations at all, it is not doubted that the German Government will try to put out the impression that at least negotiations have begun and that peace therefore is on the way.

The results which the German Government undoubtedly has been endeavoring to accomplish through the peace move are these:

Immediate strengthening of the German Government's hold on the people and the snuffing out of unrest.

Encouragement to the war weary people of Austria-Hungary who will perhaps believe that peace is at last on its way because Berlin has "begun negotiations."

Possible saving of Turkey to the Central Alliance at least for the time being.

It is regarded as very probable here that the German Government will be in no hurry to answer the President's reply. Officials say there is no way of

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CAMBON CONDEMNS TEUTON OUTRAGES

All North of France Laid in Wanton Waste as Armistice Is Sought.

RUIN WITHOUT PARALLEL

Former Ambassador to Washington Says It Is a Crime to Civilization.

PARIS, Oct. 9.—Julius Cambon, formerly French Ambassador at Washington and one of the foremost figures in French affairs, said to the Associated Press to-day:

"At the moment the Central Empires address themselves to President Wilson to obtain an armistice and begin negotiations for peace, the German armies renege the horrors they have been committing in all the occupied territories."

"St. Quentin, Lens, Cambrai, Douai are burned, mined, ruined. Having formerly been Prefect of the Department of the North I know what this new horror means to the regions devastated by the German armies. These represent the richest territory of France, the largest French industrial establishments are located. All these centres have a glorious past. They are filled with splendid monuments and museums and libraries of priceless treasures. In Cambrai stands the tomb of the illustrious Flanders."

"Outrage to Civilization."

"One cannot view without profound sadness all the ruins the German invaders are leaving behind them—ruins that represent not only material losses but also moral losses."

"The conduct of the German armies is an outrage to civilization and humanity."

"The destruction which has been going on in the south is equalled in other sections of the front. Reports received from the north show a great sweep of wreck and ruin spreading over the cities, villages and countryside of both France and Belgium. From which the Germans are being slowly forced. The extent of this devastation is reaching the dimensions of a calamity as the enemy is slowly receding. Their reverse seems to sting them into new excesses of wanton pillage and arson."

"Leon is now reported to be burning, following the same fate as Douai and Cambrai. St. Quentin is a mass of ruins, and the great mining centre of Lens is a desert, with its buildings levelled. Its population gone and its rich mines flooded."

St. Quentin a Vast Cemetery.

"The tragic situation at St. Quentin has been graphically described by M. Dupin, the sub-prefect of that city. The suburbs of l'Esplanade, Roucy and Roccourt have been completely obliterated. The whole section surrounding St. Quentin has been turned into a vast cemetery, where the Germans have buried the dead who have fallen in recent battle."

"The cathedral is still standing, its jagged walls being intact, but all else is a wreck. The campanile of the Gothic city hall has disappeared. The Academy Theater is in ruins and St. Martin's Church has lost its steeple. The principal street corner resembles an abandoned battlefield."

"The houses are shattered and their walls, seamed with huge shell holes, are toppling into the streets. Strict supervision of all entrances to the city has been ordered to avoid the dangers of mines, which are still exploding."

LANDOWNE OPPOSES TRUCE.

Upholds Stipulations Made by Wilson in Reply.

LONDON, Oct. 9.—The Marquis of Lansdowne, famous for his peace letters, in a statement on the German peace offer said to-day that he regarded it as the most substantial advance yet made by the Central Powers. He considered

ARMISTICE SOUGHT TO COVER RETREAT

Enemy Realizes Peril of Getting His Armies Out in Safety.

PREFERS LINE OF MEUSE

Offer to Evacuate Occupied Territory Dictated Solely by Military Necessities.

By H. SIDEBOTHAM.

One of the Foremost Military Critics in Europe.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN from the London Times Service.

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LONDON, Oct. 9.—There never has been harder fighting than that now going on in the west, and while this fighting will go on we know that we can impose our will on the enemy. While it is still a matter of inference rather than of knowledge, there is reason to think that the Germans will prefer a retreat to an attempt to hold their positions in France and Belgium.

The leading factors in the military situation, then, are these: The political rot at home has affected the army, with the result that all of Ludendorff's plans have gone astray, including his policy of defensive war in the west with German eyes turned to the east for final compensation for war losses. A constructive policy was needed to build on the ruins of these plans for victory, and the new Chancellor's peace offer is a structure hastily built out of materials from the ruins of former plans.

It is disguised in the phraseology of peace, but it is still a war policy to take the most favorable construction that could be placed on the Chancellor's offer. It insures that the Allies must stand for the evacuation of occupied territories of France and Belgium, he would be getting immunity for his own armies from the danger that now threatens them.

Attempts to Extort Blackmail.

In other words, while trying to extort the German armies from the east, he is attempting to extort a species of blackmail from the Entente. He says in effect: "In my retreat the outrages of which I was guilty in my advance will not be exaggerated, provided you will let me go." In other words, whether making peace or making war, the Prussian Government is guilty of exactly the same crime against international society. It cannot dissociate peace and arson.

On our side the Anglo-Belgian-Flemish and the Canadian north of the Channel, the French at Chemin des Dames and the Americans in the Argonne threaten to rip the German armies and the Prussian Government from the east. In the case of Bulgaria, has surrendered and Turkey is defended only by her remoteness. If Austria can continue the struggle at all she will not be able to stir her ally, and if Italy attacks, Austria will become a drain upon Germany rather than a help to her.

In the west again Germany is faced with a next year's superiority in numbers in the ratio of nearly two to one. Hence the only way for Germany to meet the situation is to contract her front, and there is no doubt that the German military leaders now have this policy in mind.

Retreat Fraught With Peril.

A retreat in circumstances like the present is a most dangerous operation. The Germans know that if they do not account for their eagerness for an armistice—without which diplomacy would be negotiating in currency which would change in value from day to day—which would enable the enemy to take up his new defensive positions in his own time. This would save him from the peril of

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his present situation and not prejudices the chances for his later defence in the event of a breakdown of negotiations. It has been suggested that if the enemy would evacuate all of Prussia and Belgium it might be worth while to negotiate with him. What would happen if that suggestion were made to the enemy in this; he would offer as pledge of good faith to retire as far as the Meuse line. The fact is the Germans would be delighted to be back as far as the Meuse line.

In saying all this it is necessary to guard against misinterpretations. The enemy is still fighting with the energy of desperation, and it must not be supposed he will not continue to be as dangerous on the defence as he was during his offensive operations.

The situation, while it is exceedingly favorable to us, is not yet decided in our favor, and in rejecting the German peace offer we must not delude ourselves into thinking that the rest of the war will be all beer and skittles. On the contrary, the rest of the war will be a struggle of desperate fighting. It is still a fact that the Germans who began the war have made no offer of peace except a peace that is a part of their war policy. This should encourage us to make war a part of our peace policy.

AMERICAN PLANES TO OUTNUMBER ALL

Kahn Predicts Complete Mastery of the Air.

CHICAGO, Oct. 9.—Julius Kahn, ranking Republican member of the House Military Affairs Committee, declared that by the end of this year America will have more airplanes on the battlefield than all her allies put together and will have obtained absolute mastery of the air, in a speech made before the Association of Commerce to-day. He said he did not believe the war would be over until the end of next year.

"German peace talk will not be allowed to interfere with our military programme," he said. "To the three million men now under arms two million more will have been added by March 31, and by July 1 four million Americans will be fighting in Europe. Unless Germany surrenders more than three million American soldiers will have overrun German soil before September."

SACKING ROUSES BELGIANS.

Government Consults With Allies as to Steps to Be Taken.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—The Belgian Government, according to an official despatch received from France to-day, has sent in a request to the Allies for aid in the sacking of the German cities of Cologne and Aachen, which are being used as a base for the German offensive. The Belgian Government is asking the Allies to take steps to prevent the German offensive.

Belgium has issued a declaration calling attention to the systematic sacking and destruction by the enemy and stating that from the coast to beyond Bruges the entire male population between the ages of 15 and 45 has been brutally treated while being compelled to work for the military needs of the German army. A demand is made that the Germans be warned to stop their cruelty and destruction while evacuating the country.

Ambassador Sharp, the despatch says, has visited the ruined districts of France, collecting proofs of the devastation and witnessing the evidences of well poisoning, destruction of fruit trees and desecration of burial places.

EXPLOSION IN WAR PLANT.

Etina Chemical Company's Works in Pennsylvania Have Accident.

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 9.—The fusion building of the Etina Chemical Company works at Heidelberg, near here, was destroyed to-night by an explosion of several benzol tanks. Officials of the company announced several hours after the explosion that no one had been killed or injured.

Fire which followed the detonation destroyed the wreckage of the building. For a time the flames threatened the TNT works, but fire departments from surrounding boroughs brought the flames under control before they reached adjoining sections of the plant. The cause of the explosion has not been determined. No estimate of the loss is available.

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